

Mohegan Pequot Model Railroad



The News for: November, 2007

M&P on the Road Again

The Eastern Connecticut Railroad Museum Train Show-at the Windham High School in Willimantic, CT will beheld on Sunday November 4, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Club On30 and HO layouts will be there. HO loading will be at Larry' Southwicks house at 7 P.M. on Wednesday October 31. (All present should be in Halloween costumes.) The red trailer will probably be used and towed by Dan. It will be returned to Larry's on Sunday evening and emptied then, or at a time to be determined.

Setup for the show will start at 6 P.M. on Friday Nov. 2. Doors will open at 7 A.M. on Sunday.

Operating Sessions

Jonathan Harger is still holding operating sessions at his home layout in East Lyme on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:00 PM. Check with Jonathan for directions and to see if there are any changes. Call (860) 739-4224 or hejeharger@ct.metrocast.net

Extracts: October Meeting Notes

(from John Waller's notes)

October 28 at the Bill Library

There were 14 members present, including three! from N scale.

Thomas/ Essex Owing to financial constraints, (Hit Entertainment's, not Essex Steam Train) we have not been invited to Thomas. We might still set up in early December to support the Steam Train North Pole Express, but we would be finished before Christmas.

Springfield The 2008 contract was signed and returned. The HO layout will be slightly smaller than last year. An S-scale layout will be included. There will be a fourth building this year! All other egregious acts like paying for parking are still on.

Friendship School Show at Christmas

The school (in Waterford) will not be in session between Christmas and New Year, this would be a good time to set up as small children will have parental supervision(!) The Club agreed to operate on the weekend of December 29/30. Final details to be worked out. The school is in a better position than the Club to organize publicity, and should be approached accordingly. Fund raising would probably be confined to a donation box.

Work sessions The task list for the HO modules has been drawn up, It will be posted in Larry's basement with priorities for Springfield. Prosecution of tasks is progressing.

Calendar This is still a work in progress.

Clinics These are planned for the Spring. Sandy Alonzo is the Club Stud for building wooden structures and he volunteered to show us all how it is done.

John

Meetings, Schedule & Work Sessions

There will be two meetings this month and they will both be at the Bill Library in Ledyard, CT starting at 7:30 PM. They are on November 11 (after the Sunday work session) and November 25. The Sunday all-day working session is at Larry Southwick's, house on the 11th beginning at 10:00 AM. Regular work sessions this month will be held at Larry's house on Wednesday nights, November 3, 10, 17 & 31 beginning at 7:00 PM. Thomas loading, subject to change, will be done on October 31. (Many hands guys.)

John Waller's Column

In HO scale we are now into dwarf signals big time. I have just ordered 100 two-LED housings originally intended for PCB mounting, but which

Willimantic on Nov. 4. Setup on Friday Nov. 2 at 6:00 PM

are just the right size for two 3 mm LEDs in the scale.

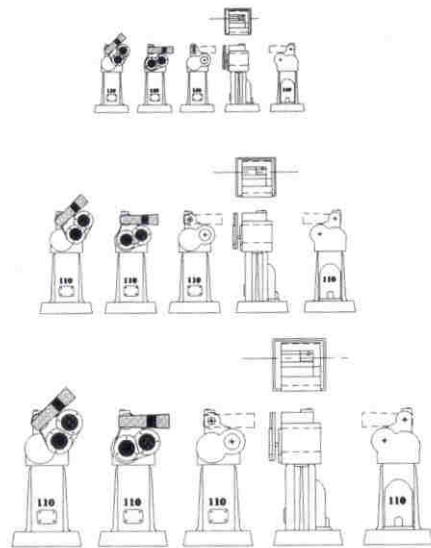
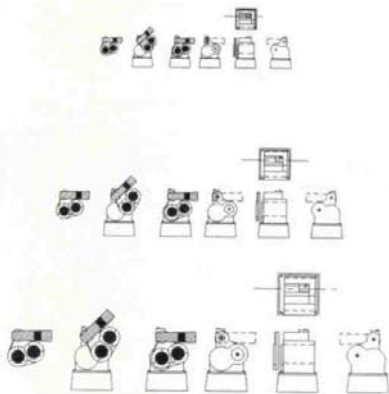
So I was intrigued to read in *Scale Rails* for November 2007 about semaphore dwarf signals. They are described in an article by Nicholas S. Muff (page 36). The signals were used within the station limits of the Kansas City Union Station.

The signals showed red and green and the short semaphore, painted yellow with a black band, was of the upper-quadrant type.



Nicholas drew scaled pictures of the signals for inclusion with his article for HO, S, and O scales, although they were not published to scale.

The very detailed drawings by Nicholas are shown below, with the two varieties of low and high pedestals.



John
The President's Corner
Dan

The Vice President's Niche

Last month I wrote about LEDs and the strange patterns of failure sometimes seen in green traffic lights.

The MAXIM Engineering Journal Volume 61 addresses high power (for us anyway) LED lighting. In this case, the objective is to replace the halogen MR16 lamps used for lighting.

In the publicity about the "un-green" aspects of lighting, halogen lamps come in for a fair amount of heat, literally. The MR16 has an efficiency of 15% in light output per watt, low by fluorescent light standards. Typical bulb life of 2000 hours is also low.

Five and ten watt LEDs are available from LedEngin™, with three times the efficiency of the MR16.

Now there is a big difference between these high-power LEDs and those we use; ours seldom get more than slightly warm to the touch.

The junction temperature in the LEDs must run at 120° C, egg-frying stuff, to get the efficiency up. Of course, for the same reason, the emitter temperature in the halogen lamp is much higher still.

MAXIM make a chip *MAX16820* specifically intended to drive the high-powered LEDs. The

chip is incorporated in a small module which acts as a constant-current generator.

Remember, we crudely approximate constant current with a series resistor. To do that here would wind up with a situation worse than the MR16 itself.

The LED, drive circuitry, and heat sink are built into a package of exactly the same profile as the MR16, so it is a one-for-one replacement.

The drive circuit does dissipate some power, reducing the actual efficiency to about 30%, twice that of the MR16. But the typical life is extended by a factor of fifty!

I can't see we would use the LED technology just described in our trains, except to illuminate our layouts. There are situations where we would want lighting to be as inefficient as possible, just to keep warm!

WANTED

I am still looking for volunteers to learn about microcontroller technology.

Microcontrollers are everywhere and we use them in DCC controllers without needing to know what they do or how they do it.

I have used microcontrollers now from the turn of the Century. It was one thing to use them in my own modules, but now I am branching out and the installation of smart turnout control on the new Dan and Jim module is proceeding well. Last Wednesday night I had all eight turnouts on the main ladder working correctly. The dwarf signal installation is next.

It is not difficult to learn the technology. There is very little by way of old-fashioned hard-wired electronics, which is why microcontrollers are used; all the complicated logic is in the software. I have plenty of documentation for people to study, and am quite willing to give tutorials.

Two people have signed up, but we need more.

John



Letters to the Editor

Enquiring minds want to know!

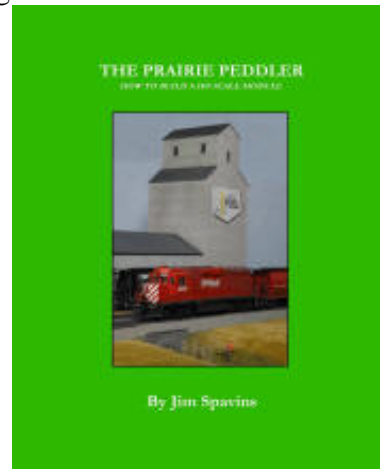
The Market Place

Club Member Ads

Advertise (free) here to reach more than fifty model railroaders eagerly waiting to buy your wonderful stuff. (Editor's Note: Let me know when your item sells or when you want to stop running the advertisement.)

Signature Series Railroad

The Newest Book from Signature Series Railroad:
The Prairie Peddler - Follow along with the construction of an HO scale module based on one of the vanishing grain elevators on the Canadian Prairies. Learn how the module was constructed. Available Nov. 6 online only at www.signatureseriesrailroad.com!



Also Available: Module Design Templates, 90 Days to Rockville Slideshow, 90 Days to Rockville Book

Titles Coming Soon: Modular Railroading 101, Module Design Ideas I

To purchase your own copies, visit www.signatureseriesrailroad.com!

Help Wanted! – Assistant needed for train show in York, PA on January 12-13, 2008. Duties include helping run vendor table for Signature Series Railroad. Transportation, lodging, and admission to show included. Contact Jim at jimspav@alum.rpi.edu if you are interested in helping.

Willimantic on Nov. 4. Setup on Friday Nov. 2 at 6:00 PM

The Club Store

Inventory is complete. Please buy from the Club store if you need "stuff". A list of "stuff" will be published in the Newsletter this fall.

Commercial Corner

Nothing here

The Technical Section

A few interesting facts from (page 33) John Armstrong's book *The Railroad – What It Is, What It Does* The Introduction to Railroad.

A 1,500 foot piece of rail at 100 Deg F will contract 0.06%, almost a full foot at zero Deg. F. A stress of 19,000 PSI will cause the rail to stretch 0.06%, and when doing so the cross section will shrink 0.03%. The cross sectional area of 132 Lb/Yd rail is 13 Sq. In. If the rail is restrained by a force of 250,000 Lbs. It will remain at its original length despite the 100 Deg. Temperature change. In effect, the shrinkage (amounting to about 0.002 " in a rail 6" wide) is forced to occur in the cross section rather than in the length.

World Wide Web

Even though he is in Wisconsin getting a degree in cheese, beer and possibly real estate, Jim Spavins still needs your pictures and other inputs for the Club web page.

The Life Section

Post your correspondence with Pete Barrington here. Please forward any emails or other contact with Pete while he is in Iraq. He would certainly like to hear from Members of M&P. Pete's email is lordtracker@yahoo.com.

9-30-2007

Pete,

Where are you now and what are you doing? (Enquiring minds want to know.) I'm looking to get some stuff into the Newsletter about you in the future. I will get the October Newsletter out today (so I say).

Regards,

Clark

Hi Clark,

I'm stationed at Camp Bucca in southern Iraq, near Bosrah. The Brits just left the area, but not the local insurgency.

We are involved with Detainee operations. Bucca is a "Theater Internment Facility," staffed by Army, Air Force and Navy people.

I can't go into too much detail about my job or the base, for obvious reasons, but we're basically guarding individuals who are awaiting trial here in Iraq.

I should be back around mid-January, God and Goddess willing, hopefully just in time for Springfield!

Wish me luck,

Pete

Pete,

I certainly do wish you luck and then some. We'll see you in Springfield.

Clark

Railroad Calendar

Eventually there is going to be a change in the M&P Calendar. You know how great it is going to be. Your Prez has it under control.

This Month in 2007

November 2, Willimantic, CT Setup for show (below) begins at 6 PM on Friday evening.

November 4, Willimantic, CT Eastern CT Railroad Museum Train Show at the Windham High School; Sunday November 4, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Doors open at 7:00 AM Contact Joe Sokol joseph_sokol@msn.com

November 7, 14, 21? & 28, North Stonington. Work sessions Wednesday nights at Larry Southwick's house starting at 7:00 PM.

November 11, Sunday; North Stonington, CT All-day work session at Larry Southwick's house. Doors open at 10:00 AM. starting whenever. Then, **Club meeting at Bill Library in Ledyard at 7:30 PM.**

November 25, Ledyard, CT M&P Club Meeting at the Bill Library at 7:30 PM.

Next Month in 2007

Essex and Waterford, CT HO displays. Details pending.

Willimantic on Nov. 4. Setup on Friday Nov. 2 at 6:00 PM

Train Shows from Ron's List

(Ron Pothier at repth@snet.net for latest information.)

Train Craftsman Structure Show – November 2/3, 2007, 8 AM – 6 PM, Mansfield, MA –
Holiday Inn Contact: CSS (508) 210-2003 or
www.craftsmanstructureshow.com

Train Show – November 4, 2007, 10 AM-3 PM,
Willimantic, CT. – Windhan High School Eastern
Connecticut Chapter NRHS

Train Show – November 10, 2007 9 AM – 3:30
PM, North Haven, CT. Holiday Inn NHRHTA

Train Show – November 11, 2007, 10 AM – 3
PM, Poughkeepsie, NY. – Mid-Hudson Civic
Center, Hudson Valley Railroad Society

Greenberg Great Train Expo – November
17/18, 2007 10 AM – 4 PM, Wilmington, MA. –
Shriners Auditorium, Greenburg Shows

Train Show – November 18, 2007 10 AM – 3
PM, Cheshire, CT. – Cheshire High School
Cheshire Band Association Contact: Thomas J.
Kotulaki, 54 Old Lane Rd, Wallingford, Ct.
06492 (203) 265-7527

Train Show – November 25, 2007, 10 AM-3
PM, Greenwich, CT. – Greenwich Civic Center
Westchester Model R/R Club

Contact: Ron Rosenberg (914) 967-7541

The Fairfield Train Show will be on March 11,
2008 at the Fairfield Ludlowe High School, same
place as last year



The Lighter/Heavier Side

Will I live to see 80?

I recently picked a new primary care doctor.
After two visits and exhaustive lab tests, he said I
was doing "fairly well" for my age.

A little concerned about that comment, I
couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live
to be 80?"

He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink
beer or wine?"

"Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing drugs, either!"

Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and
barbecued ribs?"

I said, "No, my former doctor said that all red
meat is very unhealthy!"

"Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like
playing golf, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?"

"No, I don't," I said.

He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or
have a lot of sex?"

"No," I said. "I don't do any of those things."

He looked at me and said, "Then, why do you
even give a damn?!"

Club Administration

M&PMRR Officers & Functionaries

The President	Dan DeLany	860 748-7581
Vice President	John Waller	564-3114
Treasurer	Don Counsellor	739-6381
Secretary	Robert Applegate	464-2118
Storekeeper	Larry Southwick	535-2996
Field Trips	Jim DeLany	889-4029
Newsletter	Clark Pritchett	444-1884
Newsletter Mailing and Meeting Speakers	Bill Evans	267-9482
New Passenger Modules, Name Tags and Show Layouts	Stu Dom	536-7637
Webmaster	Jim Spavins	

jimspav@alum.rpi.edu

Prototype Questions

Dave at <http://www.davesrailpage.com/>

Club Scale Contacts

G - Bob MacGregor, O – Jim Weitlauf, S – Dave
Alley, HO – Dan Delany, TT – Future, Z – TBD,
N – Sandy Alonzo, Live Steam – Jim Weitlauf
These Go-To guys will mentor new members who
want to learn more about particular model railroad
scales.

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